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Letter dated 26 July 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter addressed to you from the representative of the Panmunjom Mission of the Korean People's Army dated 22 July 2004, in connection with the impending danger of war, a touch-and-go situation which hangs over the Korean peninsula (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Pak** Gil Yon
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

04-44131 (E) 280704

Annex to the letter dated 26 July 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Kaesong, 22 July/Juche 93(2004)

I write this letter in connection with the impending danger of war, a touch-and-go situation which hangs over the Korean peninsula due to United States forceful attempts of today to increase its huge armed forces in south Korea.

It may be recalled that the KPA side, through the statement announced on my own on 1 July last year, stated that, if the United States forces in south Korea kick off an arms build-up as planned, it will regard this as United States total defiance of the Armistice Agreement and move towards taking a strong counter-measure to defend the security and sovereignty of the country.

Challenging this, however, the United States is in reach of a great jump of its "RSOI" to $13 billion from its originally planned $11 billion and, in a little under one year since the "RSOI" was made public, it deployed en masse in south Korea latest-type weapons and operational equipments such as Striker armoured vehicles, Shadow 200 unmanned reconnaissance planes, F-117 stealth fighter bombers, M1-AI Abrams tanks and Patriot PAC-3 unit.

On 29 June this year, the United States Defense Department announced its plan and began to deploy three battalions of F-117 stealth fighter bombers under the command of the United States air force at its air base in Kunsan within three months. Before this, the United States made public that it would put on stand-by alert two Aegis destroyers equipped with a highly sophisticated missile system in the East Sea of Korea and deploy two battalions of the latest Patriot missiles in south Korea within this year.

What appears as a more dangerous move is that the United States has already finished its development of a new type of MOP aimed at destroying the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's underground facilities and these missiles to be put into production will soon be supplied first to United States troops in south Korea.

While seeing such a massive build-up by the United States, the KPA side came to conclude that the United States proceeds full steam ahead with preparing a pre-emptive strike against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The United States, perhaps, seems to forget the fact that the Armistice Agreement is nothing but a temporary measure to maintain a tentative ceasefire between two belligerent parties and that both the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States are still technically at war.

Given this belligerency of today, the pre-emptive strike is not something which the United States alone can hold a monopoly for.

The pre-emptive strike is one of the effective defensive means which is firm and swift enough to the enemy at a decisive moment of having seized the enemy attempt, making it possible to hold in check the enemy's attack and defend the security of the country from the aggression of the enemy. It is military common sense.

I inform you of the KPA's renewed solemn declaration; it cannot remain indifferent to the United States ongoing move to reinforce in full its arms build-up behind the six-way talks which only go in circles wasting time over an alleged settlement of the nuclear issue; it will not, in any case, wait with folded arms until the United States is ready to attack and takes an offensive position and even until the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is attacked first by the United States.

This is the firm stand of our army before the war and the enemy.

We see that the war is almost inevitable to break out in Korea as long as the United States does not stop any longer and continues its hostile policy against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Korean war, if it comes again in future, will be a showdown of conflicts between the fierce United States hostile policy towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the pent-up hatred and indignation of our army and people. This will, in fact, be a do-or-die battle the world has never known in its history entailing the danger of unimaginable horrendous destruction and a great loss of life.

Our army and people have since long prepared for this and they, even for a moment, did not show any sign of let-up in their prepared move to cope with this situation in such a difficult time which goes beyond any stretch of imagination.

We are well aware that we can never defend our faith and future if we fail to have such determination and preparedness.

As the world recognizes, it is the hard fact that the danger of war constantly hovering over the Korean peninsula today stems just from the United States hostile policy towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the occupation of south Korea by the United States forces.

The danger of war cannot be dissipated in Korea nor we can expect to see the peace and security in this region if we do not put an end to the occupation of south Korea by the United States forces which continues for over half a century.

We think that the United Nations is also responsible for the misfortunes and sufferings the Korean people are undergoing today.

The United States had committed brutal atrocities casting the chill over the spine against our people during the three-year Korean war. This was committed under the very flag of the United Nations. We also find that, under the signboard of the United Nations, the United States hostile policy towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and its occupation of south Korea continue for the long period of well over half a century.

Moreover, the failure to implement paragraph 60 of the Armistice Agreement envisaging the peaceful settlement of the Korean question and the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Korea also lies in the United Nations which was instigated by the United States to have adopted the resolution putting a fifth wheel in the implementation of paragraph 60 of the Armistice Agreement.

What we find still hard to bear is that the United Nations has not yet implemented the resolution to this day even after 29 years since the United Nations itself had adopted it calling for dissolving the "United Nations Command" and withdrawal of the United States forces from south Korea.

I think all these facts invited the world people to cast their doubts over the justified existence of the United Nations, only to put the United Nations in a situation where it impaired its own authority due to its unequal behaviour of accommodating the interests of big countries at the cost of small countries.

If the United Nations recognizes it is one of the signatories to the Korean Armistice Agreement, it is par for the course that it should implement paragraph 60 under the obligations of the Agreement it signed, thus to settle as soon as possible the issues of the peaceful settlement of the Korean question and the withdrawal of all foreign troops.

If the United Nations, however, maintains that its name was merely misused by the United States and that a real signatory to the Armistice Agreement is the United States and, if this is the case, the United Nations should take the practical measures to dissolve the "United Nations Command" created by the United States. By doing so, the United Nations should see to it that the United States no longer dishonours the sacred name of the United Nations.

This will, as well, fully accord with the United Nations resolution 3390 B (XXX) adopted on 18 November 1975.

I expect the United Nations, assuming a noble peacekeeping mission, will not paper over highhanded arbitrary acts of the United States which has a notorious and overbearing manner, but will implement paragraph 60 of the Armistice Agreement which foresaw the peaceful settlement of the Korean question and withdrawal of all foreign troops as well as the resolution adopted at the thirtieth session of the United Nations General Assembly calling for the withdrawal of the United States troops from Korea, thereby making an active contribution to ending soon the occupation of south Korea by the United States troops and promoting the peace and security of Korea and the rest of the world.

Col. Gen. Ri Chan Bok
Representative
Panmunjom Mission
Korean People's Army